

*Ep.* I am not willing to make any such admission either; but I am willing to admit, that having the subject of union forced upon my attention, and having leisure to read upon the subject, and give it a thorough examination, I have seen the evils of division more clearly than ever before.

*Lap.* Br ther E. has expressed my mind pretty fully. Having my salary withdrawn, my pastoral labors being suspended, affording me abundant opportunity to examine the whole premises, I have been led to see things that I never thought of. I felt this at the close of our last meeting, and consequently expressed myself favorable to union.

*Chr.* Brethren, I have attended the prayer-meetings of the private members of our churches, and I am sorry you could not have all been present to have seen the love, piety, and zeal manifested at these meetings. I am sorry that you were not present to hear them. pray for us, in these deliberations, that, we might agree upon the scriptural basis for union, unite upon it, and enter into the great work of converting the world to the "one Lord, one faith and one baptism," formerly delivered to the saints! They are already united, and determined never to be separated again, in this world or the world to come.

*Pres.* I suppose they are making a great show, in repudiating all ministerial authority!

*Bap.* I was present at their meeting, a few evenings since, and from remarks in several spirited exhortations, I gathered that they do not repudiate all ministerial authority. They say, that they repudiate our authority, because it conflicts with the authority of Christ, and the authority of his apostles.

They insist that Christ and the apostles required them to be one—to be perfectly joined together, in the same mind and in the same judgment, and that there be no division among them, and that we interpose our authority, and prohibit them from being one; and, consequently, that they were compelled to repudiate our authority, or the authority of Christ and his apostles. They prefer repudiating our authority, and bowing to the authority of Christ.

*Pres.* And did you listen to such an imputation and make no reply?

*Bap.* I did, for I knew of no reply that could be made. I could not deny that Christ and the apostles required them to be one, and that they were willing to yield to the requirement. On the other hand